

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1604

July 14, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Obama:

I am deeply concerned by your consistent and continuous demonization of the general aviation (GA) industry. During recent debt limit talks, you have stepped up your criticism. For a national leader, let alone the President of the United States, to rail against American-made products is outrageous and disheartening. Given the huge positive impact of the GA industry on business productivity, American jobs, and the trade deficit, I must attribute your statements to a complete lack of understanding. Therefore, I invite you to join me in Wichita, Kansas – the Air Capital of the World – where you can learn about the general aviation business and visit with the thousands of hard-working men and women who are dependent on this industry for their livelihood.

As you may know, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood recently visited Wichita's general aviation industry. During his visit, he spoke to the importance of the GA community: "You're creating and exporting the business tools that companies around the world need to grow the economy, create jobs and expand economic opportunity – and I'm proud to stand with you, to work with you and to fight with you to make sure that general aviation, this industry, continues to flourish as the global economy picks up. You will be one of the leaders in helping the global economy pick up. We get it."

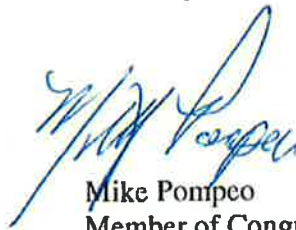
Mr. President, while Secretary LaHood gets it, apparently you do not. You have not only demanded tax increases on the industry, but you have also called out business leaders for using corporate jets, while you and your Administration continue to fly in your taxpayer-provided business jets. Given your personal experience with Air Force One, you must recognize that business jets are important productivity tools. In the face of high corporate tax rates and burdensome regulations, a high productivity rate is one of the main reasons the American economy has continued to be globally competitive.

Not only are business jets essential for productivity, they support 1.2 million jobs across America and contribute more than \$150 billion to the nation's economy. During a recent speech, you acknowledged that the manufacturing industry is in trouble when you said, "I know these have been tough years for American manufacturing, and all the workers and families who've built

their lives around it.” You should know that the GA industry has been even more dramatically harmed by the downturn in the U.S. and global economies than other manufacturers. Nearly every American aircraft manufacturer has had to cut jobs – some up to 50% of their workforce. Now is absolutely the worst time to increase taxes, or for the President of the United States to discourage sales. I hope that after your visit to Wichita you will understand the value and importance of this industry.

I stand ready to host you in Wichita at any time to give you a personal tour of our world-class facilities and introduce you to union workers who are the backbone of this industry. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Pompeo", is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress